Reduction in short distance call rates

43. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) has reduced the short distance call rates upto 200 Kilometers from January 26, 2001; and

(b) if so, to what extent and the circumstances facilitating such reduction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Charges in respect of intra-circle calls (i.e. calls orignating and terminating within the same circle) of distance of above 50 Kms and upto 200 Kms made by PSTN subscribers of BSNL, have been reduced w.e.f. 26/1/2001, as under:—

Distance slabs for intra-circle calls	Existing peak time pulse (in seconds)	Standard peak time pulse (in seconds) as per TRAI	Pulse (in seconds) made applicable w.e.f 26/1/2001	Extent of reduction in Tariff.
Above 50 Kms and upto 100 Kms	15	15	120	1/8th
Above 100 Kms and upto 200 Kms	15	15	30	Half

The concession in call charges has also been extended to BSNL subscribers of SDCAs (Short Distance Charging Areas) of NCR (National Capital Region) when making calls to Delhi.

This concession has been given by BSNL on its own volition to promote community interest and to make the shorter distance calls more affordable to general public.

Suggestions regarding dividend tax

44. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received suggestion from leading capital market experts either to do away completely with dividend tax or at least to bring it down to its earlier level of 11 per cent;

(b) if so, the arguments advanced in favour of this suggestion; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) These suggestions are under consideration during the current budget exercise and the decision of the Government, if any, will be reflected in the Finance Bill, 2001 scheduled to be introduced in the Lok Sabha on 28th February, 2001.

Distribution of Revenue by Tenth and Eleventh Finance Commissions

45. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the formula for distribution of Central revenue to the States by the Eleventh Finance Commission;